

**Post Offices in States**

6123. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to open a branch post offices in rural areas; and

(b) the number of post offices opened in villages of various States during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Branch Post Offices are opened in rural areas keeping in view the target fixed, availability of fund and satisfaction of population, income and distances norms prescribed for the purpose. For the normal rural areas the population norm is 3000 population in a group of villages, income of 33 1/3% of cost and a minimum distance of 3 Kms. from the nearest post office. However, relaxed income and population norms are applicable in the case of hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas, which are minimum anticipated 15% income of the cost and 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages. Further, while departmented sub post offices are expected to be financially self-supporting, a loss upto Rs. 2400/- per annum in the case of normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- per annum in the case to hilly, backward/tribal areas is allowed.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Airlines to Kerala**

6124. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Kovalam and Thekkady in Kerala on air map;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reason it is not possible for Vayudoot or Indian Airlines to airlin any new station at the present juncture.

[Translation]

**Telephone Exchanges in Darbhanga, Bihar**

6126. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the years of establishment, capacity and the number of the telephone exchanges at present in Darbhanga and Laheria Sarai in Bihar;

(b) whether electronic exchanges are proposed to be started during the year 1992;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details of exchanges presently working in Darbhanga and Laheria Sarai in Bihar is as following: